

American Indian Heritage Day

Friday, September 25TH, 2009

The fourth Friday of September was designated by the 1997 Legislature as “American Indian Heritage Day,” in recognition of Montana’s constitutional commitment to preserve the cultural integrity of American Indians. This is a great opportunity to offer learning experiences for students at the beginning of the school year, setting the tone and creating connections for a year of integrating Indian Education for All. How to begin?

Get students interested...

Activities that celebrate American Indian Heritage Day can create sustained interest in learning about the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians, especially Montana tribes. Field trips, guest speakers and interactive experiences are ideal but a variety of high quality print and online resources can also provide a great introduction to learning about the rich cultural history and contemporary issues of Montana tribes.

- Montana Tribes Digital Archives contains games, videos, and over 100 digital interviews with people from many different tribes. Try the Name Dropping activity to learn the names of all Montana Reservations and tribes!
- The “honor your Self” poster series features 22 American Indian role models from across the state of Montana.
- Place Names: Building World views Using Traditional Cultures and Google Earth helps students explore their “sense of place” and integrates technology.
- Indian Education for All videos with transcripts and guides can be viewed online!

Increase your own knowledge...

Model curiosity and learning for your students! These online resources provide background knowledge about American Indians in Montana.

- American Indians 101: FAQ
- Montana Indians: Their History & Location
- Seven Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians
- Article X and Indian Education For All
- Essential Understandings 1 and 2 - Diversity Issues in Indian Country.
- Essential Understanding Number 6, Online Presentation



Access resources now and throughout the year...

Integration of Indian Education for All throughout the curriculum is part of a quality education in Montana, and can provide tools for meeting many instructional objectives.

- Visit your librarian for books lesson plans, DVD and more learning materials that have been sent to all Montana schools.
- Explore nearby Native American cultural and historical sites and tribal colleges for more ideas.
- Invite guest speakers to visit your school.
- **Visit the OPI Indian Education website** for curriculum links that include lessons for most content areas and grade levels, including new literature units: <http://opi.mt.gov/indianed2/CurrSearch/Index.html>

Indian Education For All

What are your plans for this September 25?



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